

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13. (canceled).

14. (new): A video content transmitting system having a plurality of video content transmitting servers and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to said plurality of video content transmitting servers, said video content transmitting system comprising:

means for storing information of a plurality of network protocols capable of video content transmission between the plurality of video content play terminals and the plurality of video content transmitting servers, said means for storing information including a first table of protocols for facilitating communication for each combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of said video content play terminals,

wherein the first table includes a listing of the plurality of network protocols, the plurality of video content transmitting servers, and the plurality of video content play terminals, and indicates a correlation between each of the plurality of protocols and a corresponding combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals, and

wherein each of the plurality of protocols is specified for a corresponding network route for video content transmission between each of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and each of the plurality of video content play terminals;

means for selecting a video content transmitting server from the plurality of video content transmitting servers based on a protocol determination of the protocols of the first table in respect of the video content play terminal issuing the request to thereby determine the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting said requested video contents to the video content play terminal requesting said video content transmission; and

means for managing information of a total available bandwidth of a network route for video content transmission between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for the video content transmission, said managing means including a second table storing information indicative of a correlation between each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use,

wherein the second table includes a listing of each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use.

15. (new): A video content transmitting system according to claim 14, wherein:

said network includes at least a first network and a second network, in one transmission mode, the first network is used when a video content transmission request is transmitted to the video content transmitting system from the video content play terminal and the second network is used when the video contents are

transmitted from the video content transmitting server to the video content play terminal in response to said video content transmission request; and

said video content transmitting system further comprises:

means for storing an address for identifying the video content play terminal that issued the video content transmission request via the first network and an address for identifying the video content play terminal receiving the video contents via the second network; and

means for determining a video content destination address to which the video contents are transmitted, in accordance with the stored addresses of the video content play terminal on the first and second networks.

16. (new): A video content transmitting system having a plurality of video content transmitting servers and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of a video content play terminals connected via a network to said plurality of video content transmitting servers, said video content transmitting system comprising:

means for storing information of a plurality of network protocols capable of video content transmission between the plurality of video content play terminals and the plurality of video transmitting servers, said means for storing information including a first table of protocols for facilitating communication for each combination of one of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals,

wherein the first table includes a listing of the plurality of network protocols, the plurality of video content transmitting servers, and the plurality of video content

play terminals, and indicates a correlation between each of the plurality of protocols and a corresponding combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals, and

wherein each of the plurality of protocols is specified for a corresponding network route for video content transmission between each of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and each of the plurality of video content play terminals; and

means for selecting video content transmitting servers from the plurality of video content transmitting servers based on a protocol determination of the protocols of the first table in respect of the request issuing terminal;

means for managing information of a total available bandwidth of a network route for video content transmission between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for the video content transmission, said managing means including a second table storing information indicative of a correlation between each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use,

wherein the second table includes a listing of each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use;

bandwidth calculating means for calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

transmission processing means for determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal among the plurality of video content transmitting servers, in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use in the

second table and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission determined by said bandwidth calculating means.

17. (new): A video content transmitting system according to claim 16, wherein:

the network includes at least a first network and a second network, in one transmission mode, the first network is used when a video content transmission request is transmitted to the video content transmitting system from the video content play terminal and the second network is used when the video contents are transmitted from the video content transmitting server to the video content play terminal in response to said video content transmission request; and

said video content transmitting system further comprises:

means for storing an address for identifying the video content play terminal that issued the video content transmission request via the first network and an address for identifying the video content play terminal receiving the video contents via the second network; and

means for determining a video content destination address to which the video contents are transmitted, in accordance with the stored addresses of the video content play terminal on a first terminal on the first and second networks.

18. (new): A video content transmitting system having a plurality of video content transmitting servers and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of a video content play terminals

connected via a network to said plurality of video content transmitting servers, said video content transmitting system comprising:

means for storing information of a plurality of network protocols usable for video content transmission between the plurality of video content play terminals and the plurality of video content transmitting servers, said network protocol information storing means including a first table of protocols for facilitating communication for each combination of one of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals,

wherein the first table includes a listing of the plurality of network protocols, the plurality of video content transmitting servers, and the plurality of video content play terminals, and indicates a correlation between each of the plurality of protocols and a corresponding combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals, and

wherein each of the plurality of protocols is specified for a corresponding network route for video content transmission between each of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and each of the plurality of video content play terminals;

means for managing information of a total available bandwidth of a network route for video content transmission between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for the video content transmission, said managing means including a second table storing information indicative of a correlation between each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use,

wherein the second table includes a listing of each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use;

bandwidth calculating means for calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

transmission processing means for selecting a video content transmitting terminal from the plurality of video content transmitting servers based on a protocol determination of the protocols of the first table in respect of the request issuing terminal to thereby determine the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal, in accordance with the stored network protocol information and/or in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission.

19. (new): A video content transmitting system according to claim 18, wherein:

the network includes at least a first network and a second network having a transmission bandwidth larger than a transmission bandwidth of the first network, the first network is used when a video content transmission request is transmitted to the video content transmitting system from the video content play terminal and the second network is used when the video contents are transmitted from the video content transmitting server to the video content play terminal in response to the video content transmission request; and

said video content transmitting system further comprises:

means for storing an address for identifying the video content play terminal that issued the video content transmission request via the first network and an

address for identifying the video content play terminal receiving the video contents via the second network; and

means for determining a video content destination address to which the video contents are transmitted, in accordance with the stored addresses of the video contents play terminal on the first and second networks.

20. (new): A video content transmitting method for a video content transmitting system having a plurality of video content transmitting servers and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to said plurality of video content transmitting servers, said video content transmitting method comprising the steps of:

preparing a first table for storing information of a plurality of network protocols capable of video content transmission between the plurality of video content play terminals and the plurality of video content transmitting servers, said first table of protocols for facilitating communication for each combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of said video content play terminals,

wherein the first table includes a listing of the plurality of network protocols, the plurality of video content transmitting servers, and the plurality of video content play terminals, and indicates a correlation between each of the plurality of protocols and a corresponding combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals, and

wherein each of the plurality of protocols is specified for a corresponding network route for video content transmission between each of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and each of the plurality of video content play terminals;

selecting a video content transmitting server from the plurality of video content transmitting servers based on a protocol determination of the protocols of the first table in respect of the video content play terminal issuing the request to thereby determine the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting said video contents to a relevant video content play terminal requesting video content transmission, in accordance with said network protocol information stored in said first table, said first table storing a name of each network protocol capable of video content transmission between each terminal and each video content transmitting server; and

managing information of a total available bandwidth of a network route for video content transmission between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for video content transmission, said managing using information stored in a second table indicative of a correlation between each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use,

wherein the second table includes a listing of each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use.

21. (new): A video content transmitting method for a video content transmitting system having a plurality of video content transmitting servers and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any

of video content play terminals connected via a network to said plurality of video content transmitting servers, said video content transmitting method comprising the steps of:

storing information of a plurality of network protocols capable of video content transmission between the plurality of video content play terminals and the plurality of video content transmitting servers in a storage device, said storage device including a first table of protocols for facilitating communication for each combination of one of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals,

wherein the first table includes a listing of the plurality of network protocols, the plurality of video content transmitting servers, and the plurality of video content play terminals, and indicates a correlation between each of the plurality of protocols and a corresponding combination of one of the plurality of said video content transmitting servers and one of the plurality of video content play terminals, and

wherein each of the plurality of protocols is specified for a corresponding network route for video content transmission between each of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and each of the plurality of video content play terminals;

selecting video content transmitting terminals from the plurality of video content transmitting servers based on a protocol determination of the protocols of the first table in respect of the request issuing terminal;

managing information of a total available bandwidth of a network route for video content transmission between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for video content transmission, said managing using information stored in a second table

indicative of a correlation between each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use,

wherein the second table includes a listing of each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use;

calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of requested video contents; and

determining the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video content play terminal among the plurality of video content transmitting servers, in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the bandwidth now in use in the second table and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission determined by said bandwidth calculation.

22. (currently amended): A video content transmitting method for a video content transmitting system having a plurality of video content transmitting servers and being capable of transmitting requested video contents in response to a request from any of video content play terminals connected via a network to said plurality of video content transmitting servers, said video content transmitting method comprising the steps of:

preparing a first table for storing information of a plurality of network protocols usable for video content transmission between the plurality of video content play terminals and the plurality of video content transmitting servers, said first table of protocols for facilitating communication for each combination of one of the plurality of video content transmitting server and one of the plurality of video content play terminals,

wherein the first table includes a listing of the plurality of network protocols, the plurality of video content transmitting servers, and the plurality of video content play terminals, and indicates a correlation between each of the plurality of protocols and a corresponding combination of one of the plurality video content play terminals, and

wherein each of the plurality of protocols is specified for a corresponding network route for video content transmission between each of the plurality of video content transmitting servers and each of the plurality of video content play terminals;

managing information of a total available bandwidth of a network route for video content transmission between each video content play terminal and each video content transmitting server, and information of a bandwidth now in use for video content transmission, said managing using information stored in a second table indicative of a correlation between each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use,

wherein the second table includes a listing of each network route, the total available bandwidth, and the bandwidth now in use;

calculating a bandwidth of the network route to be used for transmission of a requested video contents; and

selecting a video content transmitting terminal from the plurality of video content transmitting servers based on a protocol determination of the protocols of the first table in respect of the request issuing terminal to thereby determine the video content transmitting server capable of transmitting the requested video contents to the requested video content play terminal, in accordance with the stored network protocol information and/or in accordance with the total available bandwidth, the

bandwidth now in use and the calculated bandwidth necessary for video content transmission, said first table storing a name of each network protocol capable of video content transmission between each terminal and each video content transmitting server.

23. (previously presented): A video content transmitting method according to claim 22, wherein said first table for storing information of a network protocol usable for video content transmission between the video content play terminal and the video content transmitting terminal can select a network protocol in accordance with the request by the video content play terminal and a network infrastructure.

24. (currently amended): A video content transmitting system according to claim 18, wherein said first table stores a name of each network protocol capable of video content transmission between each terminal and each video content transmitting server.